study after we found a group of patients with allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis. Fortunately the machines used at home by our patients who have intermittent inhalations did not emit Aspergillus sp. although a new model which had been acquired for use in the ward was found to do so; this has now been modified by the addition of a filter. None of the patients reported in our paper had used this model before presenting with allergic aspergillosis, in fact only 2 had ever used it. In our paper we did not mention the use of inhalation machines as a possible source of inhaled aspergillus because we had no incriminating data on these machines.

Obviously, this is something that should be borne in mind, as, too, should be the cleanliness of the nebulisers. For 25 years I have found intermittent inhalations useful, and only recently have I encountered so many instances of allergic aspergillosis complicating CF. Many workers are finding that a very high percentage of CF patients become skin-test positive to Aspergillus sp. and also show precipitins in their sera. More than 70% of our patients over the age of 5 show such findings, and there are similar reports from Ireland and England. Not all such patients are treated with intermittent inhalation and neither in fact are all of ours. Apparently the development of such sensitivity to A. fumigatus is a complication of CF and as this seems to be a recent phenomenon, although we cannot be sure, we must consider both environmental factors and secondary effects of treatment. At present we cannot blame the inhalation machines but I think that they should be tested regularly.

I should like to point out the following errors in the description of the radiographs in our paper. Page 351 Fig. 3b (Case 4) should read Tomography (antero-posterior) . . . and line 17 should read, Linear tomography showed . . .

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Book reviews


Gellis and Kagan have again compiled a useful book. The scope is wide, with 354 sections divided into 24 chapters written by 304 contributors. It is a great tribute to two notable non-American authors to have included Sheila Sherlock on portal hypertension and chronic active hepatitis, and the Jellifches on breast feeding.

In a brief and disarming preface the editors remind the reader that inside the back cover is a prepaid card on which he is invited to suggest additions or emendations to subsequent volumes.

Although the book is listed as 'illustrated' there is only one black and white drawing, albeit a useful one, on techniques for aspirating joints, but there are a number of tables. The text is condensed but, on the whole, it is surprisingly readable. One gets a certain feeling of breathlessness when the author attempts to capture the treatment of protein calorie malnutrition in 13 pages, and obesity, tracheo-oesophageal fistula, and brain tumours each in 2 pages. There is a reasonable balance between organic and functional disorders. Constipation and soiling are dealt with in 4 pages, and ileostomy in 2. The section on recurrent abdominal pain is good. Surgical as well as medical conditions are considered although, for example, there is no entry under appendicitis.

Is there any advantage in a textbook of treatment? There are excellent sections on treatment in general paediatric textbooks and comparing the relevant sections in this book with Forfar and Arneil's or Nelson's Textbooks of paediatrics, there seems little to choose. However, Current Pediatric Therapy is up to date, comprehensive, and good value.

L J H ARTHUR


A quick glance through the pages of this book with its beautifully produced illustrations and excellent drawings and diagrams may suggest that it is a small, complete, modern textbook of paediatric cardiology. In fact, it can be described best as a collection of short articles or lectures on the subject. This is not to decry the quality of the lectures, which is first-rate, but to give the reader an idea of what to expect.

The book is divided into two main parts. Part I is devoted to basic considerations, from which might be selected for special mention the sections on nomenclature, history and physical examination, various aspects of investigation (including a helpful chapter on echocardiography), and the clear concise chapter on embryogenesis of the normal heart. Part II consists of specific conditions and their management. There is a third part which hardly seems necessary since it contains only 2 chapters, both of which could have been placed in the other sections. There is a useful appendix of paediatric drug doses, and at the end of each chapter there are a few appropriate references. The authors have taken the opportunity to further the claims of their new approach to nomenclature based on chamber localisation, and their clarity of explanation and the excellent diagrams have made it comprehensible and logical. They are to be congratulated on this and, indeed, on the whole format of this excellent book.

Inevitably, there are faults to be found. 'Persistent fetal (transitional) circulation' is a bad description of the neonatal syndrome described under that heading:
the circulation cannot be *fetal* without the placenta, and in the normal transitional circulation blood is shunted left-to-right through a partially closed ductus. Though clumsy 'persistent fetal pulmonary hypertension' would be a more appropriate title. The clinical description of the syndrome leaves out important signs which are almost pathognomonic—such as the weak femoral and left brachial pulses and, sometimes, the presence of an unusual differential cyanosis with relative pinkness confined to the face, right arm, and the right side of the chest. In the footnote on p. 36 presumably PO$_2$ is an error for PCO$_2$. In the chapter on ventricular septal defect there are two different figures given for spontaneous closure, over 70% (p. 138) and 60% (p. 140).

Apart from such minor criticisms it is a handsomely produced book with a wealth of up-to-date information on paediatric cardiology. Paediatric cardiologists may find this book too concise for their purposes, but the general paediatrician will find it worthwhile reading, and it should greatly assist those preparing for higher qualifications.

R J K BROWN


The first edition of this book was produced in 1971 and since then a lot has happened in the field of spina bifida. Antenatal diagnosis and neonatal selection have resulted in a striking change in the type of patient presenting to the orthopaedic surgeon, and it has become obvious that many techniques of treatment have failed to produce the expected results. The second edition is timely and reflects these changes, and the scope of the book has been widened by including sections on embryology, genetics, antenatal diagnosis, the management of pressure sores, and anaesthetics. Consideration is also given to the way in which problems affecting other systems influence orthopaedic management. In these sections the author has been assisted by several of his colleagues at the Royal Children's Hospital and the University of Melbourne.

Most of the book is devoted to the specific problems of orthopaedic management. A chapter on the causes of deformity and assessment is followed by what might be considered the core of the book—a section on the principles of management—which reflects the author's philosophy and aims, and his wise, humane approach to his handicapped patients. Each area of orthopaedics is covered in detail, with sections on the spine, hips, knees, and feet; special attention is given to the problems posed by abnormalities of skin sensibility and to fractures, and there are valuable chapters on physiotherapy and orthotics.

The author draws continually on his own considerable experience, supplemented by a well-chosen survey of the literature, and an extensive bibliography at the end arranged in alphabetical order of authors' names.

When reviewing a book it is difficult to avoid a favourable bias if the views expressed coincide almost completely with one's own, but this one contains very little that has not been based on a careful and critical examination of each problem. It is refreshing to find an authority who admits to having 'changed his mind' on many topics. The section on the hip makes this point forcefully, and overall perhaps the greatest impression this edition makes (compared with its predecessor) is a change towards more simple procedures, more carefully defined aims, and a frank recognition of the difficulties of this type of surgery.

The illustrations are well chosen and good quality, and the text is supplemented by appendices on anaesthetics, interesting, although irrelevant, one giving notes for parents of spina bifida children, and a list of spina bifida associations.

For anyone undertaking the orthopaedic management of spina bifida children there is a wealth of detail here. The book undoubtedly reflects current orthopaedic thinking in the field and could well be regarded as compulsion reading.

T DUCKWORTH